



---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 26, 2004

For Information Contact Public Affairs

**SANDY RAYNOR**

Telephone: (602) 514-7625

Cell: (602) 525-2681

6025252681@message.alltel.com

### **DRUG SMUGGLER GETS 70 MONTHS**

**PHOENIX** –The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announced that on August 17, 2004, Evangelina De La Cruz, DOB 2/4/78, of Tucson, Ariz., was sentenced to 70 months in prison, followed by four years of supervised release, by U.S. District Judge David C. Bury in Tucson, Ariz.

De La Cruz was found guilty following a jury trial on June 9, 2004 of all four counts contained in the indictment. The four charges dealt with Possession with Intent to Distribute More Than 100 Kilograms of Marijuana, the Importation of More Than 100 Kilograms of Marijuana and Conspiracy to commit both crimes.

The charges stemmed from the defendant's arrest at the Lukeville, Ariz. Port of Entry on June 18, 2003. De La Cruz was the front seat passenger in an RV being driven by co-defendant Arthur Nogales. The inspectors' suspicions were heightened when the driver and passenger appeared nervous and the distinct odor of fish and urine emanated from the vehicle. Further search of the vehicle revealed that numerous items were stacked in front of the bathroom door, including a tire which was non-compatible with the vehicle and a barbeque grill, and that

-MORE-

silicone had been used to seal the bathroom door. Agents gained entry to the bathroom and discovered approximately 430 pounds of marijuana.

The driver, Nogales, admitted his involvement, pleaded guilty to the charges without a plea agreement and was sentenced on July 16, 2004 to 27 months in prison, followed by three years of supervised release. De La Cruz denied knowledge of the marijuana and elected to testify at trial.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The prosecution was handled by Judson T. Mihok, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-1420-TUC-DCB  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2004-143

# # #